



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, March 18, 2021

**Time:** 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Andy Robinson (Chair), Keith March Mistler, Lisa Krinsky (Vice Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Helene Newberg, Brooks Harrelson

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey, Director of Diversity Equity, and Inclusion; Christina Coleman, DEI Admin; Len Diggins, Select Board; Marci Shapiro-Ide, Council on Aging; Rob Lorino, Robbins & Fox Library; Julie Flaherty, Arlington Police Department

Guests: Molly Gillis, Christina Harrison

Absent: Julia Forsythe

### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. BH assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines read by LK.
2. Welcome and introductions (include your pronouns if you want to)
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. HN moved to approve consent agenda, KMM seconded, unanimous vote to accept consent agenda.
4. Liaison Updates
  - a. Select Board: unanimously voted positive action on the domestic partnership warrant article.
  - b. Council on Aging: Sage Table event scheduled for Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM;

- i. Grab & Go Meals will be provided by Twyrl; Pick up meals at Senior Center 5-6pm
    - ii. Vegetarian, dairy-free, and gluten-free options available
    - iii. RC will help with publicity and co-sponsor.
    - iv. Asking for commissions support with providing the dessert for the event
    - v. BH motioned to support the Sage Table event with up to \$100 for cookies from Cookie Time; HN seconded; passed unanimously.
  - c. Libraries: 'SPEAK Out' event was successful; great panel and great discussion; 15 – 17 people attended.
    - i. Reel Queer Screening "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 Pm
    - ii. April 28<sup>th</sup> reading "When They Call You A Terrorist"
    - iii. Handing out physical books now for QBG
  - d. Police : Transgender policy revision out to officers for review, review expires on 3/24, will be out to public after review period
    - i. Department had recent training – visions training workshops
    - ii. Department had their first "Having Difficult Conversations" workshop; officers enjoyed the training and learned a lot of helpful techniques.
    - iii. Several officers participated in REAL training; will continue to work with town and JH to conduct more trainings, especially for officers in leadership roles
    - iv. Partnered with Middlesex Sheriff's department to do de-escalation training – very realistic simulations; plan to continue every year.
    - v. JF asked commission for training suggestions; LK suggested Gender Diversity Training; will follow up.
    - vi. Community Advisory Board Study Committee had their first meeting, SRV is the co-char.
    - vii. Chief's advisory committee is channel for community input.
    - viii. Plans to distribute a town-wide survey on the police
    - ix. Body camera selection and budgeting going to TM; hopefully in place by July.
5. Working Group Updates
- a. Commissioner Recruitment – 2 finalists to the Select Board in April
  - b. Communications Update – KM/SRV – This week's newsletter is out (thanks AR). Current mailing list has 240 subscriptions. About 140 clicks to open on newsletter. Call for volunteers in newsletter has had some responses.
  - c. Community Update & Upcoming Events – AR received comm. From Bill Barnert Cambridge LGBTQ+ commission sponsored "Starlight Square" – Safe community space to hold socially distanced events. Asked for sponsorship, joint events.
    - i. Possible Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington join events; AR asked committee reaction.
    - ii. 5 monthly events this next year

- iii. LK – How Arlington is going to celebrate pride this year should start to be addressed
    - iv. Banner changes need to go to Select Board for approval; JH has application for June ready.
  - d. Public Education: KMM, MG, and Em presented to School Committee;
    - i. Dr. R McNeal appointed as a liaison to the working group; will invite to commission meeting. MG: areas to cover with RM – training, recommend safe schools on an annual basis in all schools, curriculum – ensure inclusive and contemporary, especially sex-ed; data collection – assure that it is inclusive; bathrooms at new HS review;
    - ii. student leadership – how to ensure voices heard and included.
    - iii. How to use Ottoson’s adoption of GSA model for student leadership in HS.
    - iv. AR/MG attended school committee “Saturday morning chat” with committee members Liz Exton, Bill Hayner, and Paul Schlichtman – validated that issues listed above are top of mind for parents.
  - e. Town Systems & Policies: JH: new commissioner finalist has government experience.
- 6. Discuss Boston Pride Boycott Request
  - a. AR gave background of current boycott request. SRV researched the background and history of Boston Pride relative to BIPOC participation.
  - b. SRV motioned to join boycott, KMM seconded, passed unanimously.
  - c. SRV will draft press release about RC supporting the boycott.
- 7. Public Engagement and Open Commentary
  - a. None

8:14 pm: BH moved to adjourn meeting, HN seconds, meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 , 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.